

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00218 201826 Z

66

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IO-12 RSR-01 /121 W
----- 102496

R 201600 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3381

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 218

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT RH

SUBJ: RHODESIA: GOVERNMENT/ ANC TALKS

REF : A) CAPE TOWN 151

B) AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN A-9

C: BLANTYRE 164

D) CAPE TOWN 85

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. MARCH 20 ARGUS CLAIMS ON- AGAIN-
OFF- AGAIN TALKS BETWEEN RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT AND
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) HAVE RESUMED. HOPES
RAISED BY RECENT REPORTS OF NEW ATTEMPTS TO REACH
AGREEMENT ON SETTLEMENT WITH BRITAIN (REF A) WERE
DASHED THREE WEEKS AGO BY THE ARREST AND DETENTION OF
THREE ANC LEADERS (REF B).

2. ARGUS REPORTS MARCH 19 ANC STATEMENT THAT, ALTHOUGH
IT IS " MOST UNHAPPY" WITH GOVERNMENT REPLY TO ANC
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REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF REASON FOR DETENTIONS,
IT ASKED FOR RENEWAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS WITH
GOVERNMENT BECAUSE " NEED OF COUNTRY... GREATER THAN
THE TEMPORARY SUFFERING OF OUR BROTHERS..."

3. ANC AVAILABLE TO TALK TO " ANYONE WHO IS SINCERELY
AND GENUINELY DETERMINED TO TRY TO SOLVE THE PRESENT
IMPASSE", BUT " IT WAS NOT GOING ON BENDED KNEES TO
ANYONE." BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA, ANC LEADER, WARNED
PRO- SETTLEMENT AFRICANS, WHO CLAIM TO HAVE COLLECTED
80,000 AFRICAN SIGNATURES IN SUPPORT OF SETTLEMENT,
THAT ANC COULD " GATHER HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SIG-
NATURES IN A COUPLE OF DAYS TIME IF WE NEEDED TO."
END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: REPORTED
ANC/ GOVERNMENT TALKS MAY REFLECT INCREASING PRESSURES
ON BOTH SIDES FOR AN AGREEMENT. ANC POSSIBLY FACING
EROSION OF SUPPORT GENERATED DURING THE PEARCE COMMISSION
INQUIRY IN RHODESIA A YEAR AGO. PRO- SETTLEMENT GROUPS
MAY INDEED BE FINDING SOME SUPPORT FROM THOSE AFRICANS WHO FEEL
SETTLEMENT WOULD AT LEAST BE IMPROVEMENT OVER STATUS
QUO. SOME EROSION FROM LEFT- WING OF ANC COULD ALSO HAVE
OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF SUCCESS OF RECENT GUERRILLA
INCURSIONS, WHICH SHOWED THAT WHITE MAN NOT INVINCIBLE (SEE
ALSO REF D). ON OTHER SIDE, SMITH REGIME FEELING EFFECTS
ECONOMIC CRUNCH DUE TO DROUGHT AND BORDER CLOSURE AND MAY HAVE
SOME CONCERN OVER ALLEGED INCREASING STRENGTH OF CONSERVATIVE
RHODESIAN PARTY (REF C).
DECON MAR 26, 1974.
HURD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BLANTYRE
DURBAN
JOHANNESBURG
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